GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3796
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
IMAGE OF POLICE PERSONNEL
Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directives to Union Government as well as State Governments to improve the image of police force;

(b) if so, the details of such directives issued by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether any action plan in this regard has also been prepared by the Union Government and State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): Directives on aspects of functioning and conduct of the police were issued by the Supreme Court inter-alia in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 340-343 of 1993, Vineet Narain & others Vs Union of India & others, and W.P. (crl) No. 539 of 1986, D.K. Basu Vs The State of West Bengal & others. In another case WP (C) No. 310/1996- Prakash Singh Vs Union of India and others, the matter is under consideration of the Supreme Court.

(b): In Vineet Narain & others Vs Union of India the Supreme Court has highlighted the need for the insulation of investigating agencies against extraneous influences. The Supreme Court also underscored the need for the State Governments to set-up credible mechanism for selection, appointment, tenure, transfer and posting of the Chief of the State Police as well as all police officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police and above. In D.K. Basu Vs State of West Bengal, the Supreme Court issued directions regarding procedural safeguards to be adopted for effecting arrest and detention of an accused in custody.

(c) and (d): Directions of the Supreme Court in the above cases have been conveyed to the State Governments for implementation, as `Police` is a State subject.

In addition, Government has taken the initiative to set up a Review Committee on police reforms. The recommendations of the Review Committee have been sent to the State Governments for implementation. The matter is also being regularly reviewed by the Central Government. A committee has also been set up to draft a new Police Act.

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Further, in order to improve the public-police inter face and the facilities at the police station, Central assistance is given to the States through the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces for construction of police stations with proper facilities and houses for police personnel, computerization of police stations for efficient service, modern transport and communication for achieving better response time, etc. Further, in order to make crime investigation scientific, the State police forces are provided with funds to modernize their forensic facilities. For ensuring better public dealing, emphasis is laid on imparting training inter-alia to sensitize the police personnel on human rights, gender issues, concern for the weaker sections, and inculcate service-oriented attitude towards people.: